

The Statement of the Foreign Office Spokesman  
Concerning the Assistance of U.S.S.R. to China.

(May 3 of the 13th year of Shōwa (1938))

It seems that the "I"-15 type and "I"-16 type fighters, the 'S.B.' bombers, etc., sent by U.S.S.R. to China between about last October and about the middle of April of this year, make a total of approximately 500, the Russian fliers and engineers amounting to some 200. As the majority of these aircraft were either shot down or blasted by our air forces, the balance may be only 100 or so. The U.S.S.R.'s supply of the arms and personnel to China, as illustrated in the above examples, can be expected to continue steadily in future.

2 passengers (fell to death) on the airplane which, on January 26, made an air-raid on Nanking and were shot down by our force proved to be Russians. The airplane which, on March 14, air-raided Wuhu and was also shot down by our force was an 'S.B.' bomber and its passenger taken prisoner by our forces was identified, through his statement, as an air lieutenant attached to the 'Leningrad' Air Corps. These positive evidences concerning the assistance of U.S.S.R. to China were produced as was previously announced. Minister HIROTA, accordingly, strongly called the attention of U.S.S.R. to these facts on the occasion of his conversation with U.S.S.R. Ambassador at

Tokyo on March 28 and, at the same time, instructed Ambassador SHIGEMITSU to U.S.S.R. to make strict representations to the U.S.S.R. Government.

Ambassador SHIGEMITSU, in his interview with Foreign Commissar LITVINOV, on April 4, after giving full particulars of the positive evidences concerning the assistance of U.S.S.R. to China as mentioned above, made the following representations to him: "Such Assistance to China, in the light of the actual conditions and systems of U.S.S.R., cannot but be considered to be hostile actions of U.S.S.R. herself, waged against Japan throughout China under the direct orders of the Soviet Government; The Soviet Government must take the whole blame for any eventual situation caused by such actions; representation is, hereby, made in accordance with the Government's instructions." M. LITVINOV, to this representations, made the lame excuse that: "It is not U.S.S.R. alone who is selling arms to China. U.S.S.R. has sent neither an army nor an individual soldier to China to have them participate in a hostile act. The alleged statement of the said prisoner or flier is not worth believing. Japan does not complain whatever of the existence of various foreign volunteers among the Chinese army fighting against the Chinese Government." Ambassador SHIGEMITSU argued against this, saying, "You seem to be misunderstanding the grave purport of my representations of to-day. The situation in China, however, has no room for discussion

as you are well aware. It is only natural that the Japanese Government should make such strong representations to your Government against the Soviet military men in active service, in such a serious phase, proceeding to China to take hostile actions against the Japanese army in China by order of the Government.

Since it is impossible that the U.S.S.R. should have such system as that of volunteers, they including both airplanes and fliers, go abroad by order of the Government without exception. It is beyond imagination, so far as other states are concerned, that any military men in active service should go to China to participate in hostilities against Japan. Should any state happen to take similar actions to those of U.S.S.R., the Japanese Government would probably assume the same attitude toward the state concerned as toward U.S.S.R." Thus the Ambassador urged him to make serious reconsideration.

As to the assistance of U.S.S.R. to China, Director of the European and Asiatic Affairs Bureau INOUE pointed out thereafter to the Councillor of the U.S.S.R. Embassy at Tokyo on April 11th, on the occasion of the negotiations concerning the settlement of various questions pending between Japan and U.S.S.R., that the Soviet airplanes and fliers in the Chinese army were continuing hostile actions against the Japanese army, the fact of which was too serious a problem for the Japanese people to pass over, thus calling again the careful attention

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of U.S.S.R. to it. Every Japanese has a grave concern with the Soviet Government which, since the outbreak of the present China Incident, has hitherto assisted China materially and mentally and has been arousing public opinion against Japan just as she would against a hostile power. We strongly demand of U.S.S.R. that she may correctly understand the Japanese position in East Asia, changing her attitude toward China as soon as possible.

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CERTIFICATE OF SOURCE AND AUTHENTICITY

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, who occupy the post of Chief of the Section of Archives of the Foreign Ministry, hereby certify that the document hereto attached, written in Japanese, consisting of 4 pages and entitled "The Statement of the Foreign Office Spokesman Concerning the Assistance of U.S.S.R. to China (May 3 of the 13th year of Showa)" is an exact and authorized official document in the custody of Japanese Government (the Foreign Ministry).

Certified at Tokyo, on this 8th day of April, 1947

/S/ HAYASHI, Kaoru (seal)

I hereby certify that the above signature and seal were affixed hereto in the presence of the Witness.

At the same place, on this same date.

Witness: /S/ URABE, Katsuma (seal)

TRANSLATION CERTIFICATE

I, William E. Clarke, of the Defense Language Branch, hereby certify that the foregoing translation described in the above certificate is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation and is as near as possible to the meaning of the original document.

/S/ William E. Clarke

Tokyo, Japan  
Date 21 April 1947

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「ソ」聯ノ對支援助ニ關スル情勢發展（昭和十三年（五月三日））  
「ソ」聯對カザフノ十月頃カラ本年ノ四月中西迄ニ支ニ於ツタ、イ十五  
型、イ十六型機銃、一エス。ペー」機銃等ハ約五百挺ニ上リ「ソ」  
聯兵士、機銃士ハ約二百人ニ達シテ居ルト見ラレル。而シテ右機銃  
ノ大部分ハ機銃兵力ノ減少に際シテハ機銃をランタカラ棄存スルモノハ僅ニ  
百内外テアリカ此ノ一但ニ於テ四百ト見ラレリ「ソ」聯ノ武器ニ對スル武  
器、人目ノ西迄ハ今後モ機銃を機銃セラレルモノト觀マラレル。  
去ル一月二十六日南京ヲ空襲シ機銃ノ減少に際シテ機銃兵ノ被害者二人  
（機銃）カ「ソ」聯人テアツタコト又三月十四日（機銃）ニ對シテ亦機銃ノ  
被害に際シタヲ機銃兵カ「ソ」聯。ペー」機銃等テアリカ機銃兵ニシテ機銃  
ノ機銃機銃トイフタモカ本人ノ機銃ニヨリ「ソ」聯ニシテ機銃兵  
機銃兵中機銃アツタコト「ソ」聯對支援助ニ關スル情勢發展カ機銃兵  
ハ機銃表ノ通りテアツタコト又四月六日（機銃）ハ去ル三月二十八日（機銃）  
ト機銃ノ機銃ニ「ソ」聯ノ機銃ヲ機銃スルトセニ在「ソ」聯ノ機銃大機銃シテ

「ソ」政府ニ嚴旨由入ヲ爲サシメタノデアル。  
 貴光大使ハ四月四日「リトヴィノフ」外務委員ニ面會シ前記ノ如キ「ソ」  
 聯對支援助ノ確證事實ヲ詳細ニ述ヘタル後斯ノ如キ對支援助ハ「ソ」聯  
 ノ憲法前制度ニ鑑ミ同政府直接指揮ノ下ニ支那ヲ通シテ我方ニ對シ行ハ  
 ルル「ソ」聯自體ノ敵對行爲ト認メサルヲ得ナイ。茲ニ政府ノ訓令ニ基  
 イテ斯ル行爲ニ由テ生ラルコトアルハキ實態ニ對シテハ「ソ」聯邦政府  
 ニ於テ一同ノ責任ヲ負ハネハテラヨト由入レタ此ノ由入ニ對シ「リトヴィ  
 ノフ」氏ハ答部ニ就基キ申入ミ居ルハ「ソ」聯ノミニ非ス。且「ソ」聯  
 ハ前記又ハ個々ノ個人ヲ問フ行爲ニ參加セシムル爲メ支那ニ對シテハ居  
 ラナイ。前記前記ノ責任士ノ陳述ナルモノハ信憑スルニ足ラヌ。支那電  
 中ニハ「ソ」聯ノ外國總兵力アルニ拘ラス日本ハ是等ニ對シテ何等苦情ヲ  
 言ハヌ等ト勝手ヲ言明ラシタメテ貴光大使ハ會下ル本廳今日ノ由入ノ重  
 大ナル意圖ヲ諷解シレテ居ル様テアルヲ支那ニ於ケル實態ハ臆論スル迄  
 モナク細承知ノ是リテアツテ此ノ重大ナル場面ニ於テ「ソ」聯ノ現役軍  
 人力政府ノ命令ニ依ツテ支那ニ赴キ在支日本軍ニ對シ敵對行爲ヲ爲スコ



トニ對シ日本政府カ本日ノ如キ嚴重ナル由入サセハ當然デアロ  
 「ソ」聯邦ノ制度ニ依レハ義勇兵ヲ言フ様ナモノハ有リ然レモテ皆  
 政府ノ命令ニ依テ飛行機、飛行士トモ外國へ赴クモノテ軍役軍人カ政府  
 ノ命ニ依テ支那ニ赴キ對日戰闘ニ參加スルカ如キコトハ外國ニ付テハ  
 考ヘラレナイ。若シ「ソ」聯ト同様ノ行動ヲ取ルカアリトスハ日本  
 政府ハ斯ル國ニ對シ「ソ」聯ニ對スルト同様ノ態度ニ出ツルモノト考ヘ  
 ルト反應シ「ソ」政府ノ新省ヲ促シセシム。  
 「ソ」聯ノ對支援助ニ付テハ其ノ後日「ソ」聯政府何處方ノ交渉ニ關シ  
 四月十一日井上陸軍局長ヨリ在京「ソ」聯大使館參事ニ對シ「ソ」聯  
 飛行機及飛行士カ支那軍中アツテ飛行ニ從事行儀ヲ指導シテ居ルコトハ  
 日本國臣ノ到底看過シ得ナイ重大問題デアルコトヲ指摘シ重ネテ「ソ」  
 聯ノ注意ヲ喚起シタ大旨デアル。  
 今次支那軍變發生以來「ソ」聯政府カ今日迄物極の精神論ニ支那手場ヲ又  
 我國ニ對シ恰モ敵國ニ對スルカ如キ與テ喚起シツツアルコトニ對シテ  
 ハ我國臣民興ツテ重大ナル關心ヲ有スルモノデアル。吾人ハ「ソ」聯カ電



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國ノ東亞ニ於ケル地位ヲ正解シ且キニ及ンテ其對支態度ヲ改メンコトヲ  
強ク要望スル。

文書ノ出所竝ニ成立ニ關スル事

自分、林 肇ハ外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラルタ  
ル日本書ニ依ツテ書カレ四頁ヨリ成ル「ソ」字ノ對支補助ニ關スル情報  
部長陸昭和十三年五月三日ト題スル書翰ハ日本政府（外務省）ノ保管ニ  
係ル公文書ノ正確ニシテ眞實ナル爲メナルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月八日 於 東京 林 肇

署名

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右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日 於 東京

立會人

浦 部 隆 雄